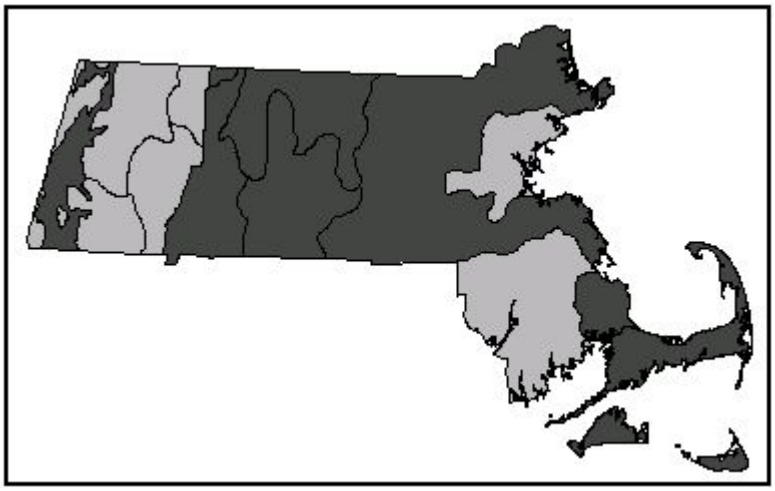
Community Name: **DEEP EMERGENT MARSH**
Community ELCODE: CP2A0A1200
SRANK: S4



Concept: Tall graminoid/emergent herbaceous wetlands occurring on saturated, mucky mineral soils that are seasonally inundated and permanently saturated

Environmental setting: Deep emergent marshes generally form in broad, flat areas bordering low-energy rivers and streams or along pond and lake margins. The soils are a mixture of organic and mineral components. There is typically a layer of well-decomposed organic muck at the surface overlying mineral soil. There is standing or running water during the growing season and throughout much of the year. Water depth averages between 6 in. and 3 ft. Deep emergent marshes are associated with shrub swamps, and the two communities intergrade.

Vegetation Description: Tall graminoids, like broad-leaved cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*) and phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), often form extensive dense stand s. Narrow-leaved cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia*) occurs in more alkaline sites or in saline areas along roads [Weatherbee, 1996]. Other characteristic graminoids include wool-grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), common threesquare (*Scirpus pungens*), Canada bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis* var. *canadensis*), rice cut-grass (*Leersia oryzoides*), and tussock-sedge (*Carex stricta*). Herbaceous associates include arrow-leaf tearthumb (*Polygonum sagittatum*), bulblet water-hemlock (*Cicuta bulbifera*), swamp-candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*), beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp.), bedstraw (*Galium* spp.), common arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia* var. *latifolia*), slender-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia tenuifolia*) and marsh-fern (*Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*). Nutrient-rich sites in Berkshire County typically have cat-tails mixed with soft-stemmed bulrush (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*), hard-stemmed bulrush (*S. acutus*), river-horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), marsh-cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*), sweet-flag (*Acorus calamus*), bristly sedge (*Carex comosa*), lakeside sedge (*C. lacustris*), and giant bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*) among others [Weatherbee, 1996].

Associations: No associations have been described in Massachusetts.

Habitat values for Associated Fauna: Deep emergent marshes are excellent waterfowl habitat and also provide important habitat for frogs and newts, especially leopard, pickerel, green and bull frogs, and red-spotted newts. Wood frogs may use areas of deep emergent marsh that are fish free.

Associated rare plants:

CAREX ALOPECOIDEA	FOXTAIL SEDGE	T
LUDWIGIA SPHAEROCARPA	ROUND-FRUITED FALSE-LOOSESTRIFE	T
POLYGONUM SETACEUM VAR INTERJECTUM	STRIGOSE KNOTWEED	SC
SCIRPUS FLUVIATILIS	RIVER BULRUSH	SC

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Associated rare animals:

ARDEA HERODIAS	GREAT BLUE HERON	- WL
BOTAURUS LENTIGINOSUS	AMERICAN BITTERN	E
CIRCUS CYANEUS	NORTHERN HARRIER	T
CISTOTHORUS PALUSTRIS	MARSH WREN	- WL
CLEMMYS GUTTATA	SPOTTED TURTLE	SC
CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE	SC
EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGII	BLANDING'S TURTLE	T
GALLINULA CHLOROPUS	COMMON MOORHEN	SC
IXOBRYCHUS EXILIS	LEAST BITTERN	E
PODILYMBUS PODICEPS	PIED-BILLED GREBE	E
RALLUS ELEGANS	KING RAIL	T
SOREX PALUSTRIS	WATER SHREW	SC

Examples with Public Access: Quinebaug River; Quaboag River WMA

Threats: Deep emergent marshes are threatened by filling and dredging, impoundments that alter natural water-level fluctuations, and nutrient inputs from adjacent roads, fields, or septic systems. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), an aggressive non-native species, can be abundant in deep emergent marshes throughout the state. Phragmites is also a problem.

Management needs: Removal of purple loosestrife and phragmites.

Synonyms USNVC/TNC: Phalaris arundinacea Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation [CEGL006335]; Phragmites australis semipermanently flooded ruderal herbaceous vegetation [CEGL004141]; Typha (angustifolia, latifolia)-(Scirpus spp.) eastern herbaceous vegetation [CEEGL006153]; Pontederia cordata-Peltandra virginica semipermanently flooded herbaceous vegetation [CEGL004291].

MA [old name]: Southern New England nutrient-poor streamside/lakeside marsh [CP4A2A.0000]; Southern New England nutrient-rich streamside/lakeside marsh [CP4A1A0000].

ME: Cattail marsh community.

VT: Cattail marsh; Deep rush marsh.

NH: Deep emergent marsh.

NY: Deep emergent marsh.

CT: Not described.

RI: Semipermanently flooded (deep) emergent marsh.

Golet & Larson, 1974: Robust deep marsh (DM-4); narrow-leaved deep marsh (DM-5); broad-leaved deep marsh (DM-6).

Other: Robust emergent marsh [Weatherbee, 1996].

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